(iii) Promotion of fuel efficient practices and equipment etc. in the industrial sector.

(iv) Adoption of practices conducive to increased fuel efficiency and training programmes in the transport sector.

(v) Standardisation of fuel efficient irrigation pumpsets and rectification of existing pumpsets in the agricultural sector, etc.

(c) and (d) Government have implemented a number of schemes for conservation of Petroleum products. They include replacement of low efficient furnices with higher efficient ones, use of better pumps to reduce leakage of petroleum products, improvement in gas flare management, use of efficient machineries, design and marketing of efficient LPG/Kerosene stoves, setting up of model garages in SIUs, sponsoring of R&D projects, etc.

(e) The likely expenditure on the implementation of these methods would depend on a number of factors such as technology and operational practices, capacity of the units and the awareness level etc. of the oil consuming units.

APEC Finance Ministers' Conference

*797. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two day Finance Ministers' Conference of the eighteen member countries of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation was held at Bali in Indonesia in mid April, 1995; and

(b) what specific issues were discussed and what decisions were taken to develop and strengthen economy of the countries in the region, besides agreements on mutual economic cooperation and trade?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The APEC Finance Ministers' meeting in Bali, Indonesia from April 15-16, 1995 discussed issues relating to the impact of recent economic developments in each of the APEC economies; efforts to encourage capital flows into APEC member economies; the effects of exchange rate movements on trade and investment in member economies pursuing macroeconomic stability and balance; and the importance of funding infrastructure development in the region to sustain non-inflationary growth towards the 21st century. The Finance Ministers' meeting resolved to pursue trade and investment liberalisation, cooperation and facilitation in the overall APEC region.

Ravva Gas fields

*798. SHRI MOOL CHAND MEENA:

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the blow out in the oil well at Pasarlapudi in Andhra Pradesh, the joint venture company of Austrailia has asked the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) to conduct an enviranmental impact assessment for the Ravva Oil and Gas Fields, coming up in the same State;

(b) whether the studies to be undertaken by NEERI also aim at assessing the existing environmental status of the project area to identify the positive and negative impacts for mitigating the adverse impact;

(c) if so, whether any studies have been made in this regard, so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir. The project proponents have approached NEERI for conducting an environmental impact assessment study for the Phase II development of the Ravva offshore oil and gas fields. The proposal has no connection with the blow out in the oil well at Pasarlapudi.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Studies with respect to the proposed development have not been initiated.

(d) Does not arise.

Printing of Passport Application form etc from Private Printers

*799. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some offers have been invited from reputed printers for printing of nearly one crore forms like EAP forms, forms for miscellaneous services and passport application forms;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the amount involved;

(c) whether such offers for printing of similar forms were invited in the past also;

(d) if so, the details thereof, separately, during each financial year from 1992-93 onwards, with the amount involved;

(e) whether printing of such big quantity of forms from private printers can lead to security risk and other administrative problems;

(f) if so, whether Government propose to get printing of forms done from Government of India Press or from DAVP empanelled printers; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (g) Tenders have been invited for priting of 86 lakhs of passport application forms for various types of services from reputed printers. The cost involved will be known only when the tenders are opened and contract for printing of forms awarded. This tender as for a revised simplified application form which will replace the existing forms. Since it is being printed for the first time, extra quantity as proposed to be printed to build up stock and avoid shortage as happened three years ago causing considerable hardship to the public.

Passport application forms have been got printed in the past through open tenders as well as through placement of indents with Government Press.

Details of orders placed and payments made for printing of application forms during the past three years are as follows:—

(in lakhs)

	Order Placed	Payments Made*
1992-93	50 lakhs	Rs. 72,75,859
1993-94	57 lakhs	Rs. 37,56,164
1994-95	62 lakhs	Rs. 49.96.150

(*Note , Payments made during one Financial Year are not necessarily against orders placed in the same Financial Year since there is some time lag between receipt and payment of bills).